REMARKS

The above-identified application has been carefully reviewed in light of the office action mailed on December 19, 2011. All fees relating to this communication can be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-0885.

Without conceding the correctness of any of the Examiner's rejections, applicant has amended certain of the present claims in order to facilitate prosecution of the above-identified application and more clearly define certain embodiments of the invention for which patent protection is sought. By the amendments, Applicants do not acquiesce to the propriety of any of the Examiner's rejections and do not disclaim any subject matter to which Applicants are entitled. Cf. Warner Jenkinson Co. v. Hilton-Davis Chem. Co., 41 U.S.P.Q.2d 1865 (U.S. 1997).

Claims 1-40, and 42-45 have been cancelled, claims 41, and 46-47 are pending. Applicant expressly reserves the right to seek patent protection for the original claims and all other claims supported by the above-identified application, for example, in one or more later-filed related applications.

Applicants respectfully submits that each of the claims remaining in the application defines patentable subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), and the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if any issues remain unresolved.

Please use Deposit Account 01-0885 for the payment of any extension of time fees, and/or the payment of any other fees due in connection with the present response.

Dated: March 19, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

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